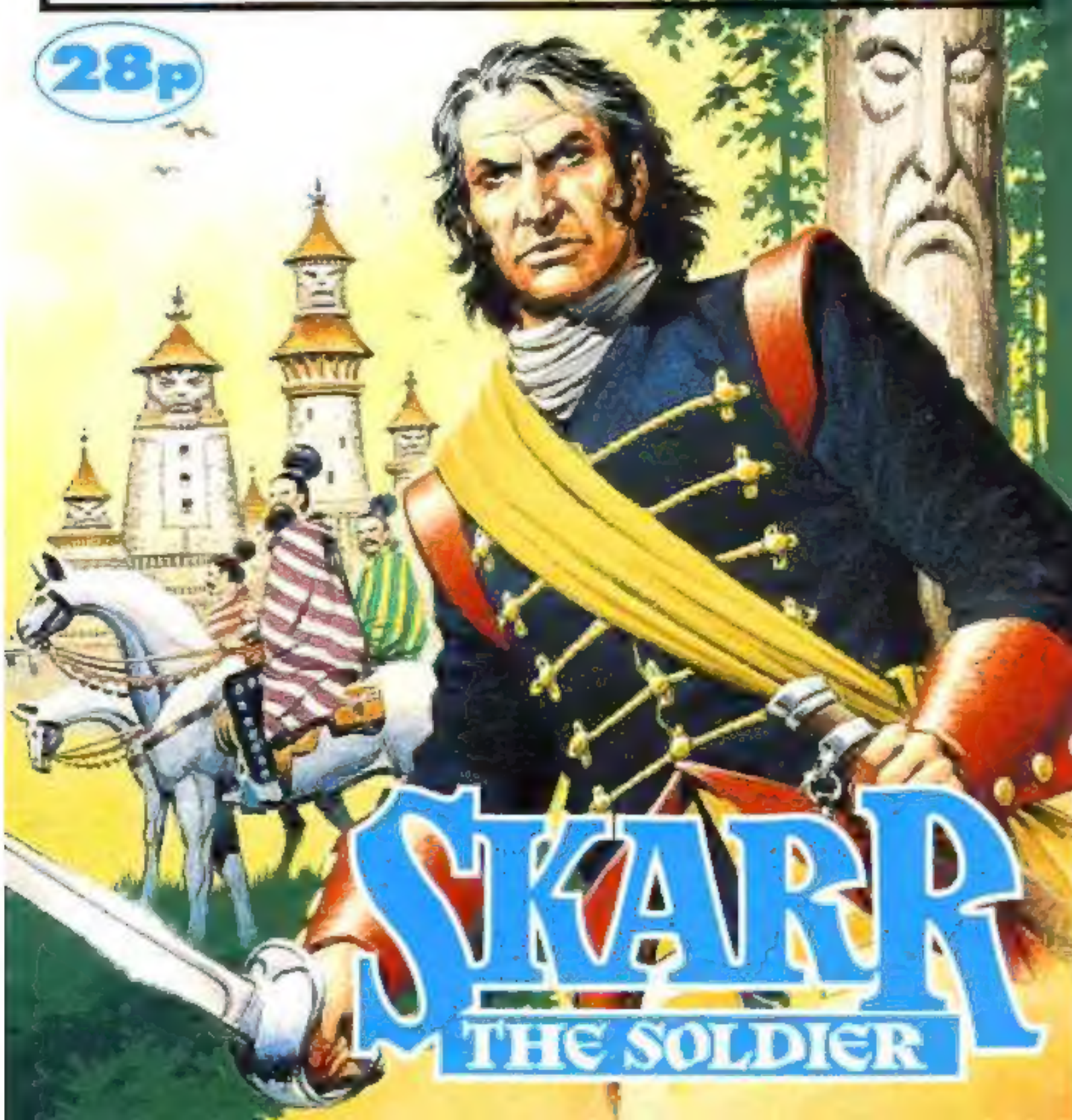


STARBLAZER

FANTASY FICTION IN PICTURES No. 23

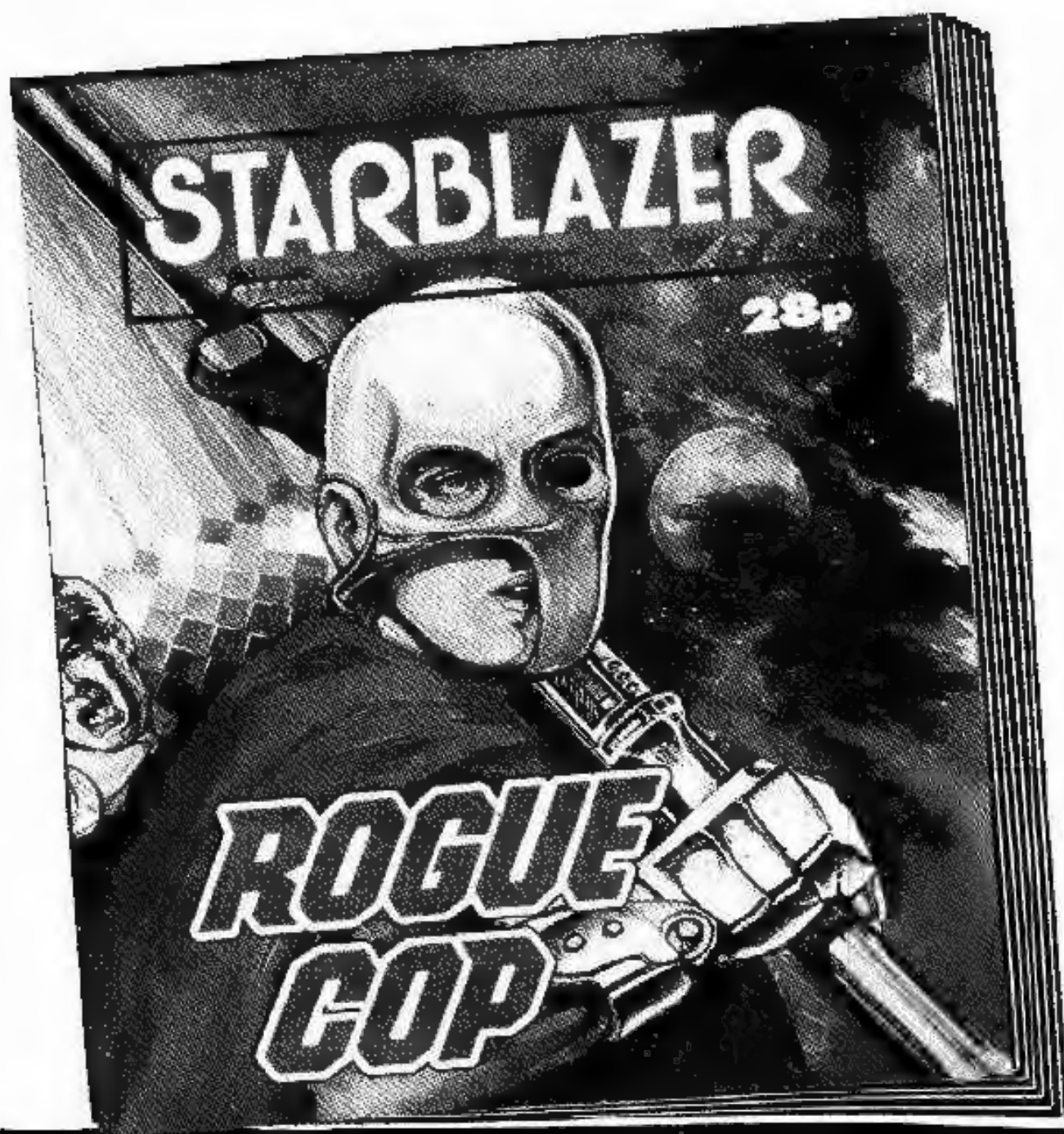
28p



STAR

THE SOLDIER

**DON'T FORGET THIS
MONTH'S *OTHER***



On sale at your newsagent's *NOW!*

SKARR The SOLDIER

SKARR, THE WARRIOR FROM THE NORLANDS WAS READY TO LEAVE HIS ADOPTED KINGDOM, KAMARDAN. THE YOUNG QUEEN WAS NOT ANXIOUS TO SEE HIM GO.

MUST YOU GO, SKARR?
WE HAVE COME TO
LOVE AND RESPECT
YOU HERE IN
KAMARDAN. YOU
COULD WEAR A CROWN
IF YOU STAYED!

I WAS NEVER A ONE FOR
HATS, GRACIOUS QUEEN.
TEMPTING AS THE OFFER
IS, I'M TAKING A SHIP
NORTH TOMORROW ...



4
TWO DAYS LATER, SKARR WAS ON
BOARD A HEAVING VESSEL—

THE STORM HAS TAKEN OUR
RUDDER. WE'RE BEING TAKEN
WEST, TOWARD SAMERK... WE
MUST BEACH SOMEWHERE.



BUT A LOOSENED BOOM SPUN TO
STRIKE SKARR A HEAVY BLOW—



STUNNED, SKARR PITCHED OVERBOARD.



THE CHILL WATERS REVIVED SKARR, BUT ONLY IN TIME TO SEE THE SHIP BREAK UP—

CAN'T DROWN... WON'T
DROWN... THAT WRECKAGE—
MUST REACH IT...



SOMEHOW, SKARR DRAGGED HIMSELF ONTO A FLOATING TIMBER AND SLIPPED ONCE MORE INTO UNCONSCIOUSNESS.



UNTOLD DAYS LATER—

LOOK! A BODY! I
COULD USE THOSE BOOTS.





8
AS THE RAGGED THIEF PREPARED
TO KILL SKARR—





ANSWER!
YOU'RE NOT IN
TARCILIAN
UNIFORM. WHO
ARE YOU?

I AM SKARR YEOMAN,
FROM NORLAND.



NORLAND ... CROSS THE
LANTIK SEA. 'TIS MANY A
LONG YEAR SINCE ONE OF
YOUR KIND GRACED OUR
LAND. COME! YOU WILL BE
QUESTIONED.

SKARR WAS TAKEN TO A
MILITARY CAMP—

WHO ARE THEY? ALL I
KNOW IS THAT
TARCILIANS ARE THEIR
ENEMIES.

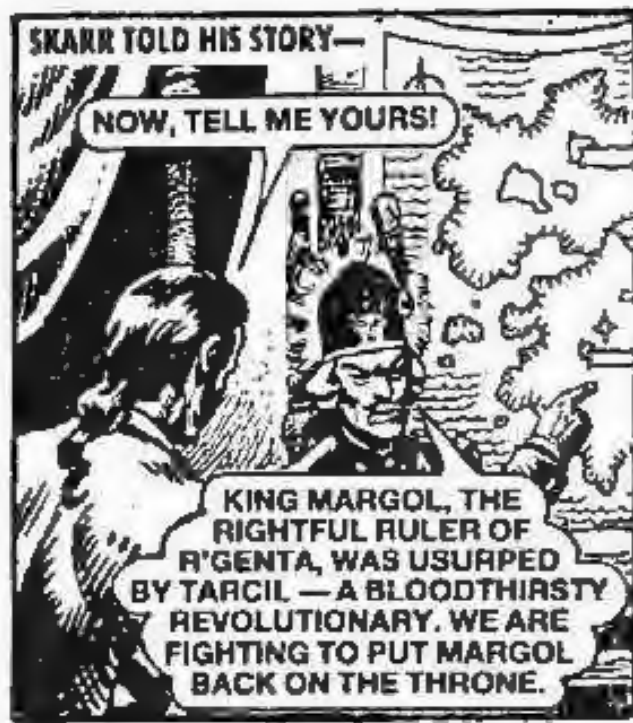


TELL ME YOUR
STORY, STRANGER.



SKARR TOLD HIS STORY—

NOW, TELL ME YOURS!



KING MARGOL, THE
RIGHTFUL RULER OF
R'GENTA, WAS USURPED
BY TARCIL — A BLOODTHIRSTY
REVOLUTIONARY. WE ARE
FIGHTING TO PUT MARGOL
BACK ON THE THRONE.

KING MARGOL SUMMONED SHARR—

SO YOU ARE A WARRIOR
... A MERCENARY.

NO ... I AM A SOLDIER!
I FIGHT NOT FOR
MONEY, BUT FOR
JUSTICE AND RIGHT.

AND I AM ALWAYS RIGHT! YOU
WILL GO WITH MY MEN AND FIGHT
THESE TARCIL SCUM.

I'M NOT SURE I LIKE THE SOUND OF
THIS — THOUGH HE IS THE RIGHTFUL
RULER.

A FEW DAYS LATER—



VILLAGERS HAVE BEEN
HELPING TARCILIAN
TERRORISTS... WE ARE
GOING TO DISCOURAGE
THEM.

IF YOU SAY SO!



SKARR FOLLOWED ORDERS... UP
TO A POINT.

WHAT A HAPPY,
PEACEFUL SCENE!

PITY IT WON'T LAST! WE'RE
GOING TO KILL EVERY LAST
ONE OF THEM.

WHAT? ARE YOU OUT OF
YOUR MIND, KALLIN?

THERE ARE NO TARCILIAN
TERRORISTS IN THAT VILLAGE!
LOOK AT IT — NO LOOK-OUTS,
NO VEHICLES AND NO ESCAPE
ROUTES. YOU CAN'T
SLAUGHTER WOMEN AND
CHILDREN ON A WHIM!

I'M IN CHARGE! WE'LL GIVE
THEM TIME TO SETTLE
DOWN FOR THE NIGHT.
WE'LL HIT THAT BARN
AT FIRST LIGHT!

SKARR CREEPT AWAY—

I'M GOING DOWN
TO WARN THEM.

SKARR MOVED CAREFULLY
INTO THE VILLAGE—

THE DINING
HALL IS EMPTY.



AFTER A MOMENT'S UNEASY SILENCE—



UP ON THE HILL—



WHAT'S GOING ON DOWN THERE? SOMETHING'S ALERTED THEM — THEY'RE EVACUATING THE PLACE! IT'S SKARR — THE TURNCOAT DOG! KILL HIM!

HERE COMES KALLINI!





KALLIK WAS DRIVEN BY A RUTHLESS FURY — HE WAS NOT GOING TO BE SHAKEN OFF.



BUT SKARR HAD A DEEP INSTINCT FOR SURVIVAL. HE KEPT HIS PURSUERS AT BAY UNTIL DAWN LIT THE EASTERN SKY.

THE SEA ... I'VE REACHED A DEAD END.



THERE HE IS ... ON THE CLIFF-TOP!

WE'VE GOT HIM! BUT REMEMBER — HE'S MINE!





KALLIN COULDN'T BELIEVE
WHAT SKARR WAS
DOING—

HE'S CRAZY!



SKARR LEAPT ONTO THE
RACING CHARIOT.

YOU MISSED,
KALLIN!



TIE THE COLONEL'S HANDS WITH
YOUR BELT, SOLDIER — FAST!



WITHIN SECONDS—

NOW DRIVE AHEAD OF ME—
HEAD BACK TO BASE-CAMP.

YOU'RE GOING TO PAY FOR THIS,
SKARR — DEARLY!





BUT BEFORE KALLIN COULD CONTINUE —





SKARR RELEASED KALLIN —

THEY'VE GOT US PINNED
DOWN — WE NEED A
DIVERSION . . .

YOU MEN! WE'LL GIVE YOU
COVERING FIRE — TRY TO
GET THAT VEHICLE TO THE
GORGE A LITTLE FURTHER
ON — IT'LL SPLIT THEM UP!
GO!

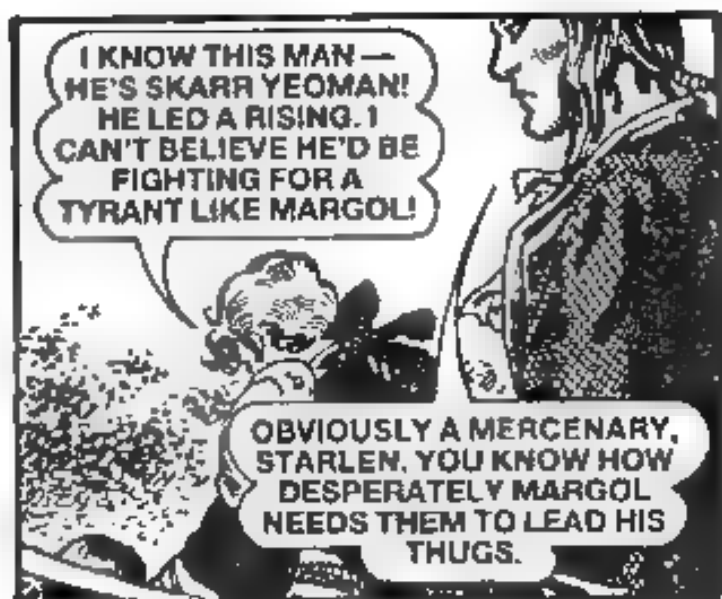
BUT THE TARCILS HAD CANNON —

BY THE STARS!

WE'RE ON
OUR OWN!







BUT — I KNEW HIM. I WAS ONE OF
THE SLAVES HE LED ... HE WAS A
FINE MAN ... I DON'T
UNDERSTAND ...

LET'S GET HIM BACK TO
THE CAMP, AND FIND OUT.



BUTCHER THOUGH HE WAS, KALLIN WAS STILL A
SOLDIER — STILL A MARGOLIAN THROUGH-AND-
THROUGH ...

IF I FOLLOW CAREFULLY,
THEY COULD LEAD ME TO
THEIR ENCAMPMENT ...



SOMETIME LATER —

THEIR BASE! I WILL GATHER
MORE MEN, AND RETURN.



BY MID-AFTERNOON...

NOW WHAT? TORTURE?
THEN SLICED-UP? LET'S
GET IT OVER WITH.

WE'RE NOT MARGOLIANS,
SKARR YEOMAN. WE DON'T
TORTURE PEOPLE, JUST
ASK THEM QUESTIONS.

HOW DO YOU
KNOW MY NAME?

REMEMBER ME,
SKARR? I WAS ONE OF
THE SLAVES YOU
HELPED FREE IN
NORLAND. WHAT
HAPPENED TO YOUR
FINE PRINCIPLES,
FRIEND?



THERE AREN'T MANY INTELLECTUALS OR PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE IN SAMERK, SKARR. BUT THOSE THERE ARE ARE BEING FORCED TO WORK FOR MARGOL. HE HAS TAKEN THEIR WIVES AND CHILDREN AS HOSTAGES. WE HOPE TO TRADE THESE OFFICERS FOR THESE WIVES AND CHILDREN. MARGOL KILLS TARCILS WHO SURRENDER.




THERE ARE ALWAYS RUMOURS OF ATROCITIES! MARGOL ■ THE RIGHTFUL RULER OF THIS COUNTRY.

I'M WASTING MY TIME! GUARDS — THROW THIS ONE IN WITH THE REST!




FORGIL WAS THE RIGHTFUL RULER OF THE NORLANDS! DON'T RECALL THAT BOTHERING YOU MUCH, SKARR. WHO ARE YOU TRYING TO CONVINCE WITH YOUR ARGUMENTS — YOURSELF?





YOU'RE ONE OF KALLIN'S UNIT.
MAYBE YOU CAN THINK OF A WAY
OF GETTING US OUT OF HERE?



THERE'S A TWENTY-FOUR
HOUR GUARD ON US. FIRST
SIGN OF US WORKING ON THE
BARS AND THEY'D RAISE THE
ALARM.



THEN I'LL JUST HAVE
TO TALK TO STARLEN.

IN DEEP COVER, NOT FAR FROM THE TARCIL CAMP—

WHERE IS THIS CAMP?

ON THE FAR SIDE OF THIS HILL IF WE DIVIDE THE TWO UNITS WE CAN BOTTLE THEM UP. THIS IS WHAT WE'LL DO ...

KALLIN OUTLINED HIS PLAN.

ONE PROBLEM, COLONEL. THE TARCILS ARE KNOWN TO HAVE PRISONERS — OFFICERS. THEY COULD THREATEN TO KILL THEM IF —

PRISONERS? ONLY COWARDS ALLOW THEMSELVES TO BE TAKEN ALIVE. WE HAVE NO ROOM FOR COWARDS IN THIS WAR. LET THEM DIE!

ALTHOUGH THERE IS ONE PRISONER I'D LIKE TO BE KEPT ALIVE — JUST FOR A WHILE ...



IN THE TARCIL ENCAMPMENT —

STARLEN! I'VE
BEEN THINKING...

REMEMBER THE RULE,
STARLEN. NO ONE
APPROACHES THAT CAVE.

THAT MAN'S AN
EXCEPTION. WITH HIM ON
OUR SIDE...

WITHIN MOMENTS, STARLEN REALISED HIS MISTAKE.

WHA —? UNNNNGH!

PITY WE'RE ON
OPPOSITE SIDES THIS
TIME, STARLEN. BUT
THIS IS WAR!







NO, I DON'T MEAN KILL! THEY'RE FELLOW COUNTRYMEN!



SO STARLEN WAS RIGHT! RIGHTFUL RULER MARGOL MAY BE, BUT HE'S A MURDEROUS SWINE!



SKARR'S PAUSE FOR THOUGHT WAS A MISTAKE.

SKARR... PREPARE FOR
A VAPORISED HEAD!



THINK DEEP, SKARR — IT WILL BE
YOUR LAST THOUGHT!



BUT—

AAARGH!

BLAM!

WHAT THE ... STARLEN!

DON'T ASK WHY, SKARR. I'M
NOT SURE I CAN ANSWER
YOU.

SKARR SUDDENLY THREW HIMSELF AT STARLEN.

WHA—?

NO TIME FOR A
CHAT, STARLEN—
THERE'S A WAR
GOING ON!





HIT THEM!

THIS SURPRISE ATTACK
MIGHT JUST TURN THE
TIDE!

BUT—

YOU SHOULD HAVE
FINISHED ME WHILE
YOU HAD THE CHANCE,
SKARR — BUT I CAN
STILL USE ONE ARM,
AND THAT OUGHT TO
BE ENOUGH ...



KALLIN FIRED—

WAH —? LOOK OUT!
WE'RE GOING OVER!



FAREWELL, SKARRI



SKARR AND STARLEN THREW
THEMSELVES CLEAR.



MY WARMEST
REGARDS, YEOMAN!



SOMETIME LATER, WHEN SKARR REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS—

IT — IT'S AN INFERNO! GOT TO
FIND STARLEN — SEE IF HE'S
STILL ALIVE ...

THERE HE IS! STILL
ALIVE — GOT TO
GET HIM CLEAR.

THERE'S A RIVER DOWN THERE!
I'LL FOLLOW THAT ...



LATER—



NO SOUNDS OF BATTLE
BACK THERE. MUST BE
ALL OVER. NO NEED TO
WONDER WHO BEAT
WHO... THE TARCS
WERE OUTNUMBERED
AND OUT-
MANOEUVRED...

WHEN STARLEN REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS—

A LITTLE EXTRA FIRE AND
SMOKE AROUND HERE ISN'T
GOING TO BE NOTICED, AND
WE MUST EAT.

LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE
COME OVER TO THE
LOSING SIDE.

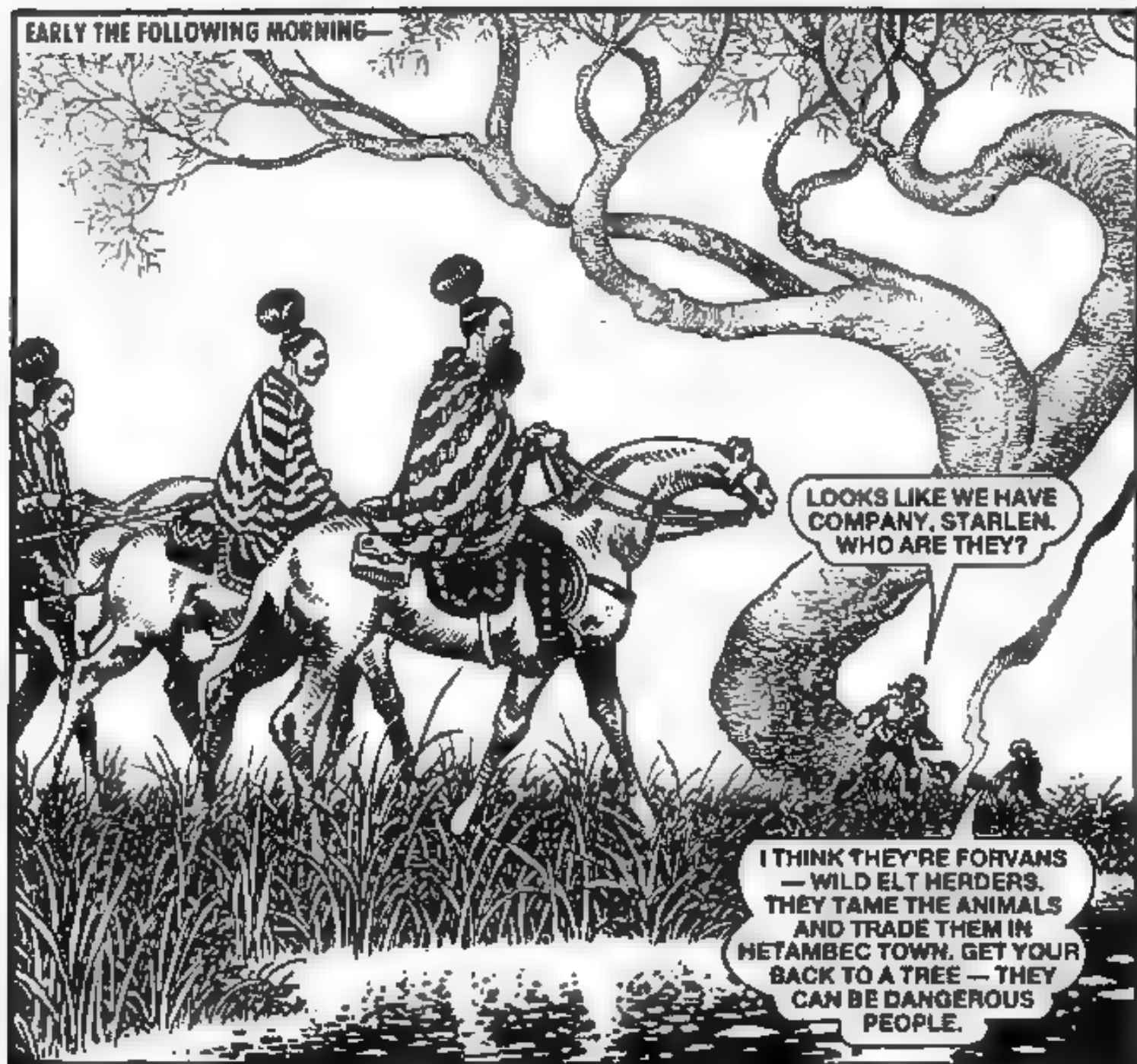


ONCE THEY HAD EATEN—

WE HEAD FOR THE TOWN OF
HETAMBEK. IT'S WILD IN EVERY
SENSE OF THE WORD, SKARR. IT'S
AN UNTAMED AREA FULL OF
UNTAMEABLE PEOPLE. MARGOL
HAD PLANS TO WIPE IT OUT!



EARLY THE FOLLOWING MORNING—



LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE
COMPANY, STARLEN.
WHO ARE THEY?

I THINK THEY'RE FORVANS
— WILD ELT HERDERS.
THEY TAME THE ANIMALS
AND TRADE THEM IN
HETAMBEC TOWN. GET YOUR
BACK TO A TREE — THEY
CAN BE DANGEROUS
PEOPLE.

EASY, FRIENDS, SEE — WE ARE
UNARMED. WE COME IN PEACE.
LOWER YOUR WEAPONS — THEY
MAKE US NERVOUS!

MAYBE WE'RE A LITTLE
NERVOUS TOO, FRIEND.
YOU OUTNUMBER US—



SUDDENLY—





RELEASE THEM . . . NOW THAT WE
HAVE PROVED WE MEAN NO
HARM. NOW — DO YOU WISH TO
PURCHASE A MOUNT EACH?

IT'S A DEAL, STRANGER
AND WE'D BE GLAD OF
YOUR COMPANY INTO
HETAMBEK TOWN, IF
YOU'RE HEADING THAT
WAY . . .

ON THE WAY, THEY TALKED. SHAR
SPOKE OF HIS MISSION . . .



YOU WISH TO ATTACK MARGOL IN
HIS OWN PLACE! IT IS TIME THAT
ANIMAL WAS WIPED FROM THE
FACE OF SAMERK.

IN THE REFRESHMENT AREA OF HETAMBEC TOWN—



THAT DOES IT!
MY POINT!

YOU CHEATING WARK!

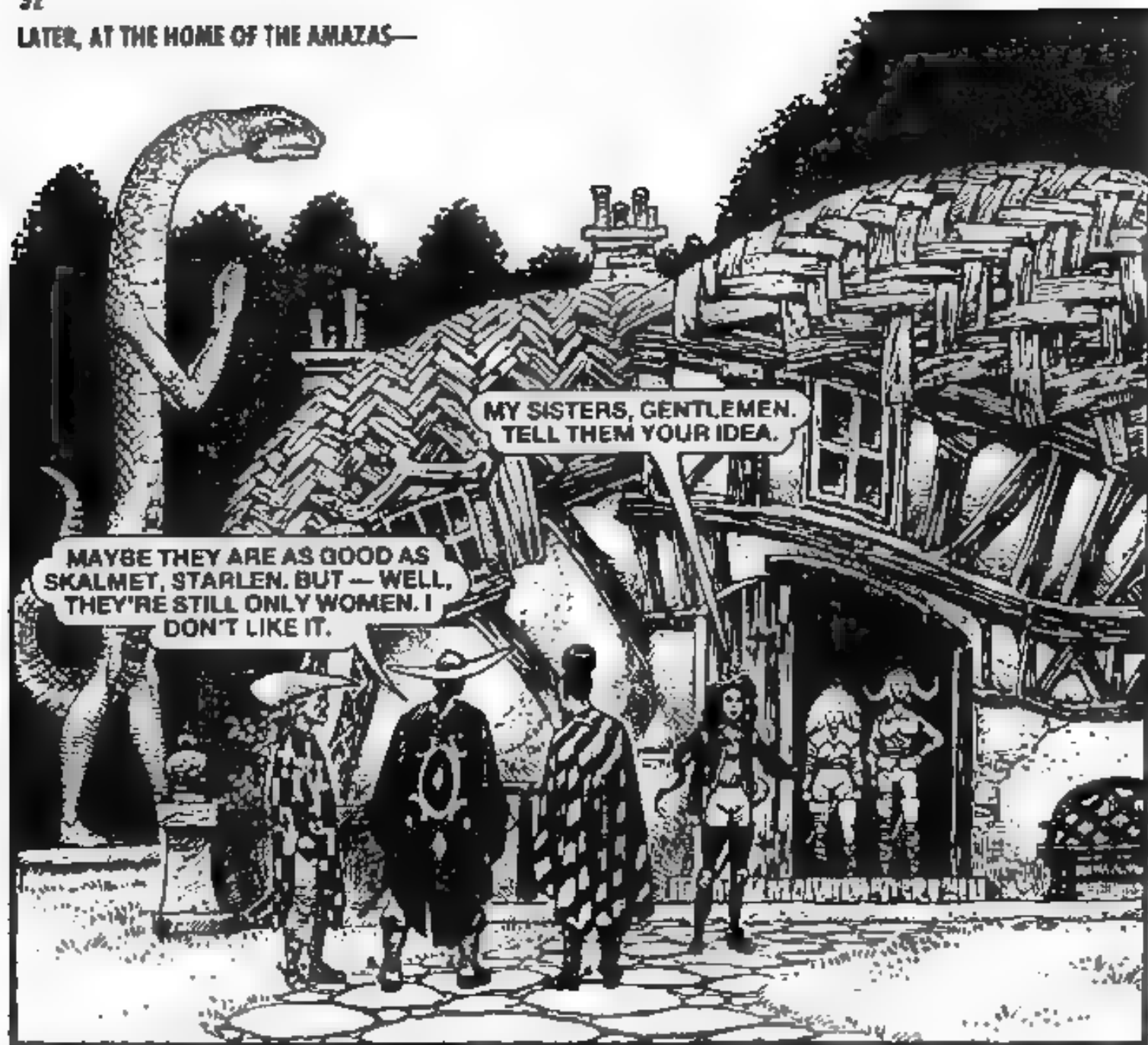


BE STILL! IF SKALMET OF THE AMAZAS SAYS HE CHEATED, THEN HE DID. LEAVE HER.

STILL ACTING THE GENTLEMAN, FORVAN... COME, I SEE YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO ME.



LATER, AT THE HOME OF THE AMAZAS—



MY SISTERS, GENTLEMEN.
TELL THEM YOUR IDEA.

MAYBE THEY ARE AS GOOD AS
SKALMET, STARLEN. BUT — WELL,
THEY'RE STILL ONLY WOMEN. I
DON'T LIKE IT.

OVER THE MEAL, SKARR OUTLINED HIS PLAN TO THE AMAZA SISTERS.

INTERESTING — MARGOL MUST GO.
BUT FIRST WE LOOK AT HIS PALACE.

HOW FAR
IS IT?

A NIGHT'S RIDE FROM HERE.
WE'LL BE THERE BY DAWN.

AND, AS DAWN BROKE—

AN APPROACH MIGHT BE MADE FROM THE FAR SIDE, BUT THE MOMENT THE ALERT WENT UP IT WOULD DRAW THAT HEAVY GUARD FROM THE FRONT. AND WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH OF US FOR A TWO-SIDED ATTACK ...



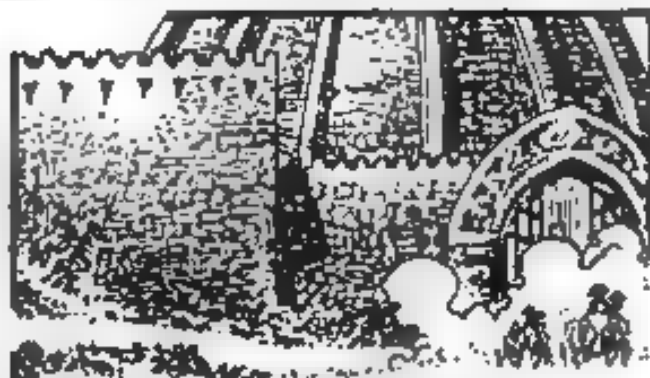
AND THAT'S A HEAVY FORCE
DOWN THERE, SKARR, WE'LL
NEED A BIGGER SQUAD ...



AND IF I KNOW MARGOL, HE'S GOT
MORE MEN PATROLLING THE OUTSIDE
AREAS. THIS WILL TAKE A LOT OF
PLANNING, SKARR.

THE FORVAN WAS RIGHT. THERE WERE
MARGOL PATROLS IN THE OUTSIDE AREAS.

UNIDENTIFIED PARTY SURVEYING
THE PALACE. SEND UP A FORCE.
WE'LL MOVE III FROM ABOVE AT
POINT 7 ...



LOOK! TROUBLE!





UP THERE! WE'VE GOT
TO MOVE — AND NOW!

THOSE BLASTS! THEY WILL
STAMPEDE THE BARGOES! THEY
GRAZE ON THIS AREA.



WAIT! IF THERE ARE MORE UP
THERE, THEY COULD CUT YOU
OFF!

THEY'RE NOT LISTENING! WHAT
WAS ALL THAT ABOUT BARGOES?

A MUTANT BREED —
ARMOURED WITH
HARDENED
LEATHER . . . HUGE! IF
THEY ARE STAMPEDED
NOTHING LIVES THAT'S
■ THEIR WAY!



LISTEN! THAT THUNDERING
... IT'S THE BARGOES.
THEY ARE STAMPEDING.
MOVE!






IT'S SKALMET AND HER
SISTERS. THEY'RE
TRYING TO FORCE THE
LEADERS TO TURN!
THEY'RE CONTROLLING
THE BARGOES!



AND THEY'RE HEADING THEM
TOWARDS THAT PATROL!



SIDE THE PALACE—



IT SEEMS THE PATROL
UNIT UP AT POINT 7
WAS WIPED OUT, MY
LORD. THERE COULD
BE DANGER OF SOME
KIND OF ATTACK.
INTRUDERS WERE
REPORTED.

CONTACT COLONEL
KALLIN. I WANT HIM HERE
AT ONCE.

OWN THE PARTY WAS MOVING
PHASE ONE...

MAKE YOUR MOVE WHEN
THE SUN REACHES EAGLE
PEAK, SKALMET. GOOD
LUCK!

WE DO NOT RELY ON LUCK,
SKARR. MY SISTERS AND I
SHALL BE READY.

THE AMAZA SISTERS VANISHED
INTO THE HALF-LIGHT.

WE MUST CROSS THAT
OPEN AREA BEFORE THE
SUN GETS UP TO EAGLE
PEAK.

SUPPOSE THE
AMAZAS DON'T
HAVE ANY LUCK,
SKARR? WE'RE
GOING TO BE
STUCK OUT HERE
IN FULL DAYLIGHT
WITHOUT A DOG'S
CHANCE...

YOU HEARD WHAT
SKALMET SAID,
STARLEN — THEY
DON'T RELY ON
LUCK!

STAND BY! THE SUN'S
ALMOST IN PLACE...

LOOK UP THERE —
LOOKS LIKE A
BARGOE STAMPEDE!

AND HEADING THIS
WAY... WE'D BETTER
GET OFF A COUPLE OF
BLASTS TO SCARE 'EM
AWAY...

BUT SCALMET AND HER SISTERS MADE
SURE THE BARGOES WERE NOT
DIVERTED...

THEY — THEY'RE COMING
STRAIGHT AT THE GATES.
LOOKS LIKE RIDERS ON
THOSE BEASTS!

BLAST THEM!

DIFFICULT TO AIM — THE
DUST — AND THE SPEED!



ON THE FAR SIDE —

NOW! ALL EYES WILL BE
ON THE BARGOES! GO!



THE DIVERTED GUARDS WERE EASY MEAT!



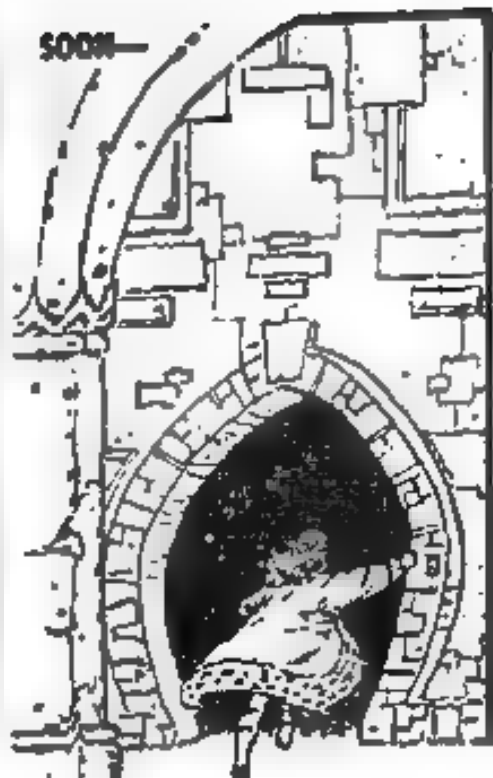
WHA —! AARGH! IT — IT'S AN
ATTACK! AIEEE!





THROUGH HERE,
STARLENI!

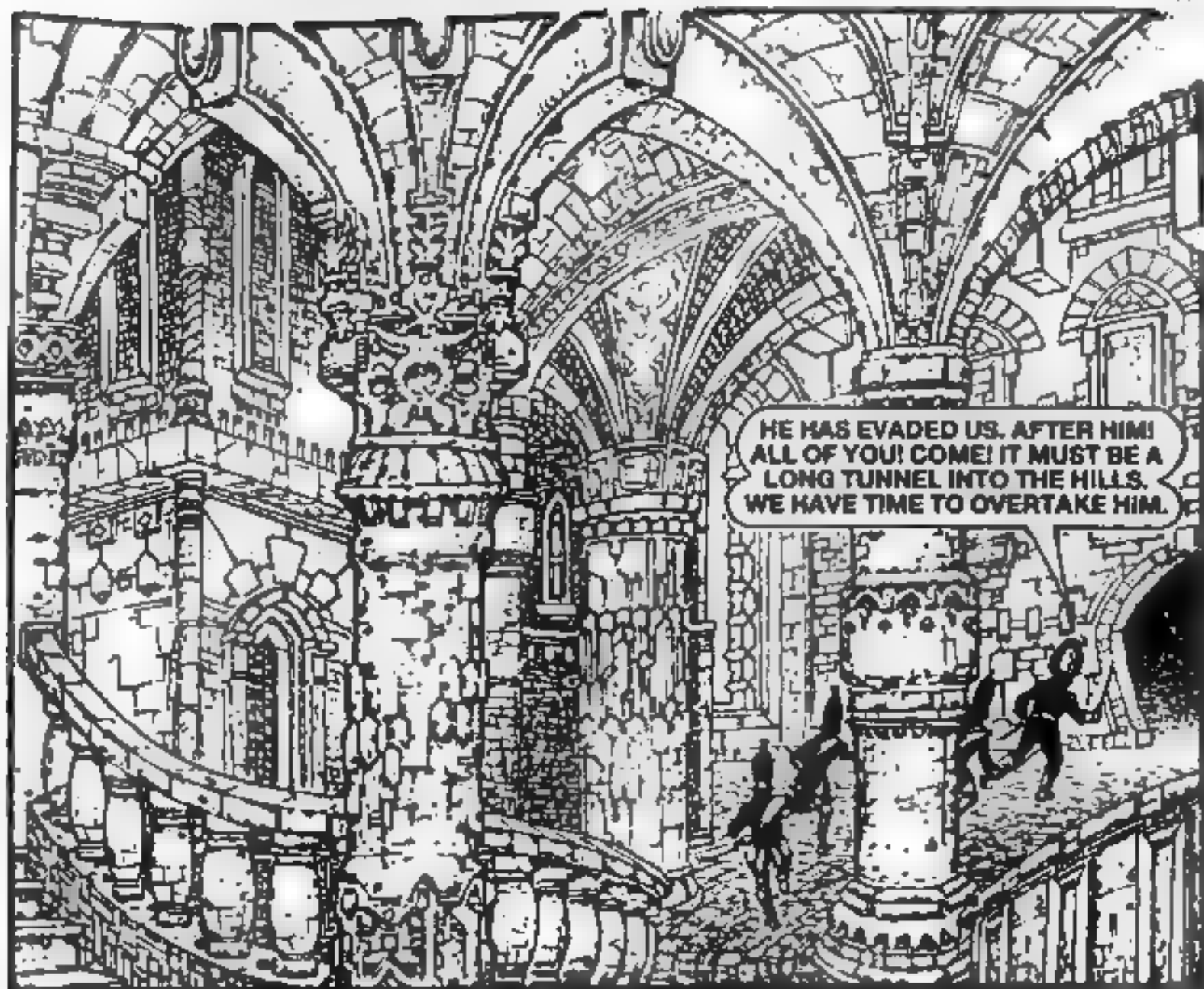
SOON—



MARGOL! HE'S RUNNING!



STAY BACK!



HE HAS EVADED US. AFTER HIM!
ALL OF YOU! COME! IT MUST BE A
LONG TUNNEL INTO THE HILLS.
WE HAVE TIME TO OVERTAKE HIM.

AS KALLIN AND HIS MEN
RUSHED ON INTO THE TUNNEL...

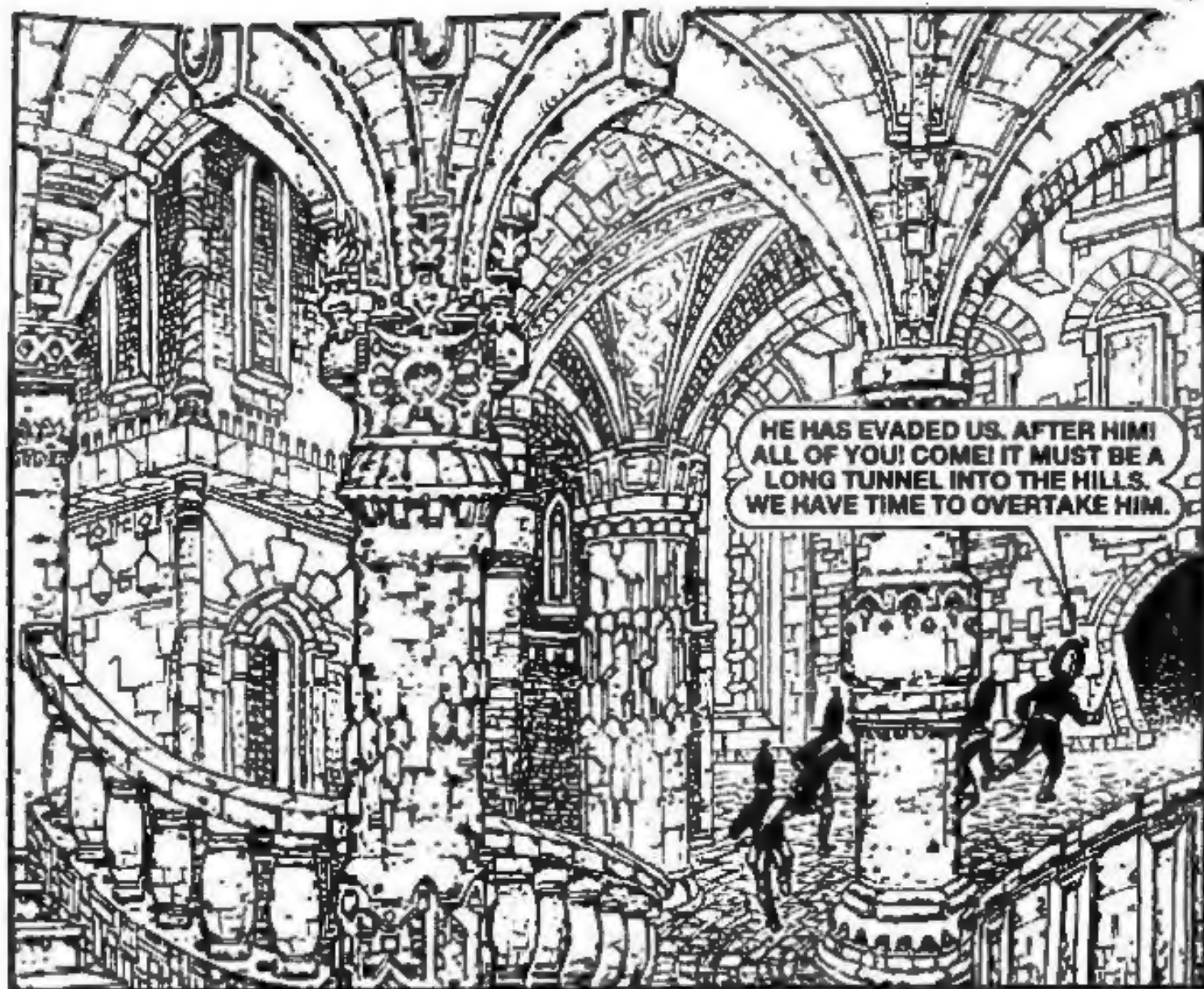
SEEMS LIKE IT
WORKED, SKARR! IN
THESE OUTFITS HE
TOOK US FOR DEAD
MARGOLIANS!

AND HE'S GONE HOT-FOOT
INTO THAT TUNNEL WITH HIS
MEN. LET'S GET UP ONTO
THAT WALK-WAY AND WATCH
THE FUN...

WITHIN MOMENTS—

LOOKS LIKE KALLIN
HAS SAVED US A LOT OF
WORK...

HE'S KILLED HIMSELF
AND MARGOL.



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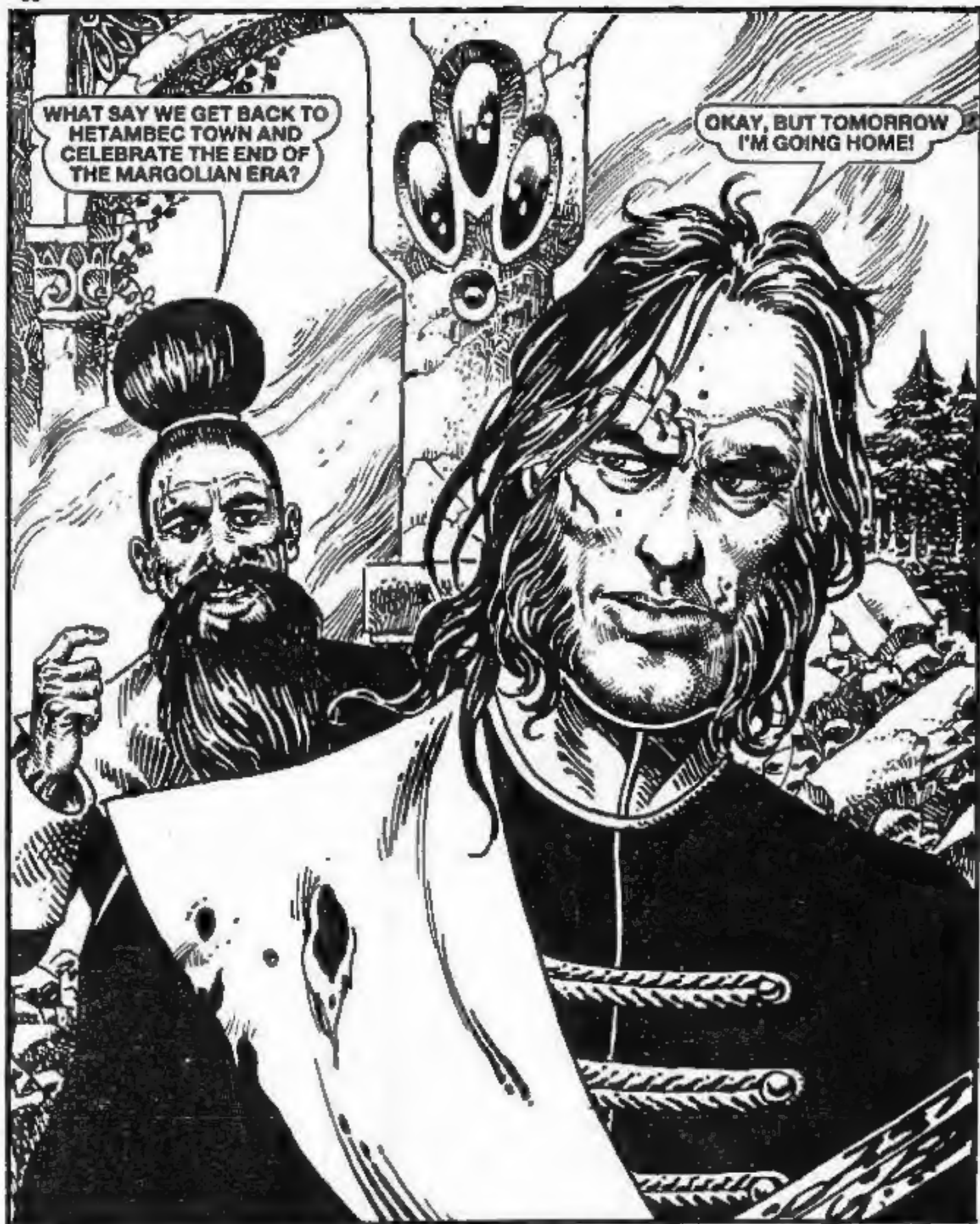
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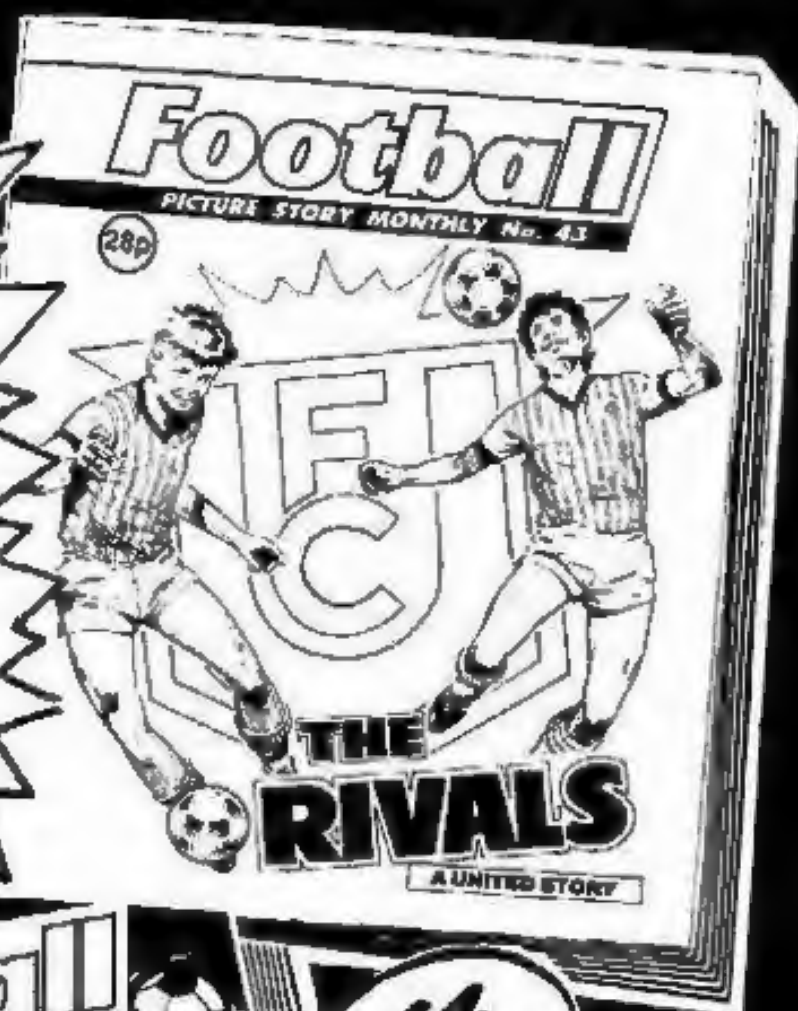




WHAT SAY WE GET BACK TO
HETAMBEK TOWN AND
CELEBRATE THE END OF
THE MARGOLIAN ERA?

OKAY, BUT TOMORROW
I'M GOING HOME!

**TWO
GREAT
FOOTBALL
PICTURE
STORY
LIBRARIES
EVERY
MONTH!**



**64
PAGES
EACH**

PLUS
A FULL COLOUR
MINI PIN-UP...
...AND A PAGE
OF FOOTBALL
FUNNIES...
IN EVERY ISSUE!

NOW ON SALE

28p

SKARR

THE SOLDIER

STRANDED IN
SAMERK, MANY
THOUSANDS OF
MILES FROM HIS
HOME, SKARR, THE
SOLDIER OF
FORTUNE, HAD TO
FIGHT FOR A
FOREIGN RULER
AND AN ALIEN
CAUSE — OR BE
EXECUTED!

